

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member Mike Sullivan



900 Bagby, First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

17629 El Camino Real
Houston, TX 77058

PHONE:
832.393.3008

FAX:
832.393.3279

E-MAIL:
DistrictE@CityofHouston.net

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www.houstontx.gov

Residents of District E,

As we enter the month of May, Mayor Parker continues to work on appointing her new city department directors. She recently appointed Jim Noteware as Director of the city's Housing and Community Development Department. In a meeting with Mr. Noteware, I emphasized to him that large portions of my council district believe that they already have their fair share of multi-family, low income, tax credit projects. I also implored for him to continue to push for aggressive rehabilitation of existing apartment projects that are on the brink of falling into disrepair. Director Noteware assured me that he would focus on these issues and be responsive.

Mayor Parker also appointed David Feldman as City Attorney. When meeting with Mr. Feldman, I encouraged him to adopt reasonable ordinances to include council members in matters affecting their council district, and to aggressively pursue the closing of adult oriented businesses like "cabarets," "lingerie stores," "smoke shops" and other sexually oriented businesses. They are a blight to our neighborhoods, attract criminal elements and are frequented by a clientele that is neither good nor safe.

Another appointment that will be confirmed the first week of May is for the Presiding Judge and Director of the Municipal Courts Department. Judge Barbara Hartle has been nominated and has been involved with the city's courts for some time now, but realizes that there are improvements to be made. I expressed my desire to see that the Kingwood Municipal Courts open an additional day per week, which would serve my constituents better. I also encouraged her to explore the use of more online services that would allow residents to register for defensive driving, and the like without having to actually go to court.

Lastly, one of the most serious issues facing our city is the mounting deficit we have. The city operates on a July 1 fiscal year, and we are entering the budget building process as of May 1st. I will be offering a number of budget reduction proposals and will fight to have them adopted and implemented. The Mayor will make the ultimate decision, but city council has the legal vote whether or not to adopt the Mayor's budget. I will continue to scour the budget, analyze expenditures, and make every effort possible to ensure that we do not spend more money than we take in, and that we not even consider a tax increase on our citizens and businesses.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

Kingwood Library Grand Opening

The Kingwood Branch Library officially opened their doors on April 19th. Council Member Sullivan celebrated the grand opening during a ceremony in which many elected officials, including Mayor Parker, Commissioner Jerry Eversole and Congressman Ted Poe acknowledged the special relationship between the City of Houston and Harris County that made the construction and operation of the library possible.

The new library is LEED silver certified, accommodates 400 occupants and consists of a meeting room, children's activity rooms, conference room and four small study rooms. The public also has access to over 107 computers for their use.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Harris County, the City of Houston's General Services Department and the Parks Department for pushing this project forward.



Congressman Ted Poe, Mayor Annise Parker and Council Member Sullivan

Lone Star College Ground Breaking



Council Member Sullivan and Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce President Mike Byers

Lone Star College – Kingwood celebrated its two new buildings, the Student Conference Center and the Music Instructional Building, during a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, April 13th. Due to significant growth among the student population, Lone Star College reached out to the community, students and staff to participate in the planning process during expansion. About \$57.7 million of the \$420 million bond issue that was passed by voters in 2008 will go towards the Kingwood college.

Council Member Sullivan participated in the event as a member of the Chancellor's Advisory Council for Lone Star College System.

Construction on both buildings is expected to be complete by August 2011.

2nd Annual Dancing for Partners

On Thursday, April 22nd, the Lake Houston Family YMCA hosted their 2nd Annual Dancing for Partners fundraising evening at the Humble Civic Center, which had over 600 people attend. Council Member Sullivan and Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce President Mike Byers emceed the event, which hosted 14 dancing couples who performed a short dance routine. This year's Dancing for Partners fundraiser raised money that goes towards the Lake Houston YMCA's Partners Scholarship Campaign. The funds are used as financial assistance for children and families in the community who are unable to afford to the cost of utilizing the YMCA.

Humble ISD Education Foundation Gala

The Humble Independent School District hosted their 10th Annual Education Foundation Gala at the Humble Civic Center on April 9th. Council Member Sullivan attended the gala, which is the largest fundraising event for the school district. A silent and live auction was held with all the proceeds benefiting the Innovative Education Grant Program. The money raised provides grants for exciting learning activities, field trips and equipment for several Humble ISD schools.

As a former Humble ISD school board member, Council Member Sullivan is a strong supporter of the Education Foundation Gala and has actively participated in events benefiting the school district

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

On April 20, 2010, Council Member Sullivan attended the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon honoring area law enforcement officers and fire fighters. Officer Mike Zentek was one who was honored for his role in the capture of robbery suspects in Kingwood. Council Member Sullivan attended the luncheon to show his support for the Houston Police and Fire Departments.

Precinct Four Constable Ron Hickman was also in attendance. Constable Hickman has several patrol contracts in Kingwood and has worked closely with Council Member Sullivan for years.

Pictured to the right: Officer Mike Zentek and Council Member Sullivan



Project Updates

- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2010.
- An additional \$289,000 has been earmarked for the Kingwood HPD substations for overtime programs and Mobility Response Teams.
- Intersection improvements at Woodland Hills and North Park Drive are close to completion. Improvements at West Lake Houston and Kingwood Drive will begin in June.

Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan wants to remind South Belt-Ellington residents that he will be hosting a town hall meeting on May 11th at San Jacinto College - South Campus in the Marie Flickinger Building. District E project updates will be discussed. Council Member Sullivan will then open the floor for audience members to voice their questions and concerns. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

Joint Hurricane Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan held a joint Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall Meeting with Texas State Representative Carol Alvarado on April 20th at Garfield Elementary. Those who attended the meeting learned unique and useful tips on how to better prepare for this year's hurricane season. Council Member Sullivan especially appreciated Terry Moore from the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management for his enthusiastic presentation and knowledge of all things related to preparation and response. Meteorologist Casey Curry from ABC13 also spoke to the crowd about the predicted forecast for the season and measures that can be taken right now to prepare for potential hurricane activity.



Representative Alvarado, ABC13's Casey Curry and Council Member Sullivan

Fuqua Water Line Update

In order to keep up with the growing demands of the community, the City of Houston has begun installing a 72 inch water line on Fuqua from Beamer to Stover. The project involves the upgrade and replacement of damaged and unusable storm sewer pipe and drainage inlets, concrete pavement and curb replacement and any repairs to residential driveways and sidewalks there may be due to construction. The project is currently 75% installed and complete, and is expected to be complete by the beginning of September 2010.

For more information about the construction and phases, please contact Project Manager, Jeff Heflin at 281.304.9100 X 24.

Grace Community Church Traffic Meeting

Council Member Sullivan took part in a meeting between Grace Community Church and the Houston Police Department on April 1st about mitigating traffic congestion before and after church services. HPD had several creative solutions that will be implemented soon to relieve traffic jams. He thanks the officers who contributed their expertise in solving these traffic issues.

Grace Community Church lies in Council Member Sullivan's district and is the sponsor and supporter of all Houston Police Department and Houston Fire Department in the line of duty funeral services.

Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park has been approved and installation will begin Summer 2010.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is open.
- Monroe Road improvements are complete, and open all the way to Beltway 8.
- This spring, METRO will be adding 150 new parking spaces at the South Point Park and Ride Lot offering a total of 766 spaces to patrons.

Clear Lake Town Hall Meeting

On April 27th Council Member Sullivan hosted a town hall meeting for his Clear Lake constituents. A variety of topics were discussed including NASA/JSC funding issues, the new Compostable Bag ordinance, BARC's leash laws and Sylvan Rodriguez Park. During the meeting, attendees had the opportunity to ask Council Member Sullivan and the appropriate city department representatives questions.

Council Member Sullivan would like to thank the University of Houston – Clear Lake for the use of their facilities and to the city departments for attending.

Prior to the meeting, Council Member Sullivan and his staff ate dinner at HFD station 94. He thanks the A shift for extending their hospitality.



NASA Delegation Meeting and Press Conference



Congressman Pete Olson, Mayor Annise Parker and Council Member Mike Sullivan

Texas Congressional delegation held a special called meeting on April 16th with top NASA officials and local elected leaders about President Obama's recently proposed budget and speech at the Kennedy Space Center. Concerns about employment and the Houston economy were discussed among Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Congressman Gene Green, Congressman Pete Olson, Congressman Culberson, Mayor Annise Parker, Council Member Sullivan and Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia.

Following the meeting, officials held a press conference addressing concerns discussed in the meeting and continued to push for action from the Houston community. The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership was also well represented by President Bob Mitchell during the press conference.

Neighborhood Watch Interview

Council Member Sullivan interviewed with KTRK's Kevin Quinn last month about the reactivation of a Neighborhood Watch Program in Clear Lake. Leslie Alvarez, General Manager of the Clear Lake City Community Association, has been working diligently with Officer Randy Derr in organizing such efforts. Council Member Sullivan supports the partnership and the community working together in an effort to reduce Part One crimes in the area.



KTRK report Kevin Quinn interviews Council Member Sullivan.

Bay Oaks Community Association Meeting



Bay Oaks Community Association board members pictured with CM after the meeting.

The Bay Oaks Community Association held their 2010 Annual Meeting on April 20th to elect new directors, review new business and present the state of the association. Council Member Sullivan attended the annual meeting as the Bay Oaks neighborhood lies in District E. He welcomes the newly elected directors, Diane Overman and Bill Bobo, thanks them for their involvement with in the Bay Oaks community and looks forward to working with them in the future.

Pineloch Home Owners Association Meeting

The Pineloch Home Owner's Association held their annual meeting on April 29th to address several point of interests.

Council Member Sullivan was invited to speak to give an update about District E and City of Houston related issues. Subjects discussed included the newly appointed city department directors, NASA/JSC updates, automated recycling, prohibited yard parking and the new compostable bag ordinance. Alyce Coffey from the city's Solid Waste Department was also in attendance to present information about the new compostable bag ordinance and to answer questions residents had.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the Pineloch Board of Directors for giving him the opportunity to address Pineloch residents and Alyce Coffey for attending the meeting on behalf of Solid Waste.



Council Member Sullivan addresses Pineloch residents about several issues.

Project Updates

- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.
- Council Member Sullivan received the final draft of the Clear Lake traffic operations study draft, and it is currently under review.

Water Rate Increase

City Council voted and approved the proposed rate increase to water and wastewater service charges Wednesday, April 21. This rate increase will affect single-family, multi-family and commercial customers throughout the City of Houston. Single-family customers however, will see a nearly 30% increase in their water bills. Council Member Sullivan casted a 'NO' vote to the original proposed rate increase. During council session, an amendment was offered bringing single-family, multi-family and commercial customers to 100% cost of service. Council Member Sullivan voted NO against this amendment as well.

About 12.5 percent of the 27.7 percent increase will take affect June 1, 2010. Single-family customers will notice the remaining 15 percent increase every April 1st over a three year period beginning in 2011.

For more information, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

HPD Inducts Officers into Survivors Club



Officer Kwami Ahiabor, Council Member Sullivan and Senior Police Officer Patrick F. Siddons

On April 5th, Council Member Sullivan attended the Houston Police Departments promotion ceremony at the L.D. Morrison Sr. Training Academy. One sergeant was promoted to lieutenant and eight officers were promoted to sergeant. Also during the ceremony Chief McClelland presented two awards to two officers on behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police/DuPont Kevlar Survivors' Club for surviving a potentially fatal and/or disabling injury due to protective armor that was worn. Since the club's conception in 1987, more than 3,000 officers have survived such potentially harmful scenarios.

Bio Bag Interview

Council Member Sullivan interviewed with Gabe Gutierrez with KHOU about the new compostable bag ordinance that went into affect April 5th. The news story describes the new ordinance, which requires Houstonians to use specific city approved biodegradable bags to dispose of their lawn clippings. Those who choose not to use said bags will face a fine of up to \$2,000.00.

As the only council member to vote against this ordinance last September, Council Member Sullivan voiced his concerns on behalf of his constituents during the interview.



Gabe Gutierrez interviews Council Member Sullivan

Houston Dynamo Game



Council Member Sullivan, Jess Fields and Dave Martin pictured with Kingwood Park High School's soccer coaches

Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity to attend his first Houston Dynamo game on April 17th. Before the game, he and Houston Sports Authority Board Members Dave Martin and Jess Fields were given a tour of Robertson Stadium, were able to converse with a few of the players and helped recognize Kingwood Park's soccer team that was attending the game.

Following the Dynamo's 3-0 victory, Council Member Sullivan was asked to give an interview about the recently proposed stadium that he supports.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the Dynamo's Chief Operating Officer Chris Canetti for hosting and escorting them during the game.

HPOU Reception

Senior Officer, David Freytag was honored with the Lynn Clooney Memorial Award during a ceremony at the Houston Police Officers Union for his volunteerism to the Houston Police Department. Officer Freytag has been with HPD for 46 years and has helped form and foster the HPD Honor Guard. His years as a civil servant and his dedication to the community and to the Honor Guard earned him this prestigious award.

Council Member Sullivan congratulates Officer Freytag for earning such an achievement.



Council Member Sullivan, Officer Freytag and Connie Savage

Crime Victims Week



Council Member Sullivan joined area law enforcement leaders and crime victims' rights groups during a ceremony on the steps of City Hall on April 21st honoring Crime Victims Rights Week. Andy Kahan Director of the Mayor's Victims Assistance Office invited Council Member Sullivan to acknowledge those who have been active in promoting and advocating on victims' behalf. An open house was also held on April 22nd recognizing those individuals in the Houston community responsible for educating victims of their rights.

Every April, communities throughout the country observe National Crime Victims Rights Week.

Mayor's Service Award Luncheon

On April 27, 2010, Mayor Annise Parker hosted the annual Mayor's Service Award luncheon, which honors City of Houston employees who have dedicated 30 or more years to the city. Among those honored was Officer Randy Derr of the Clear Lake Substation. Council Member Sullivan attended the event to show his support for Officer Derr who is a great resource for the south part of District E and the many other honored City employees.



Officer Randy Derr, his wife and Council Member Sullivan

Continental-United Press Conference



Council Member Sullivan joined Mayor Annise Parker at a press conference on April 27th to address the potential economic impact of the discussed Continental – United Airlines merger. Several local, state and county officials attended the press conference at the Greater Houston Partnership to urge the potential merger to keep the Continental headquarters in Houston. Those who spoke, including Mayor Parker, GHP Chairman Patrick Oxford and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, mentioned many of the benefits Houston has to offer and pointed out the potential downfalls that would occur if the headquarters were moved.

As part of the Transportation, Infrastructure and Aviation committee Council Member Sullivan is concerned about this issue as he works closely with the Houston Airport System.

Tree Waste

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind District E residents that the City of Houston's Solid Waste Department will only pick up **Tree Waste** in May. Tree Waste is defined as "clean" wood waste such as tree limbs, branches and stumps. Lumber, furniture and treated wood will NOT be accepted.

For more information, please visit the Solid Waste Department's website at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

City Hall Annex
900 Bagby
First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

Monica Aizpurua, Chief of Staff
Karina Moreno, District Outreach Coordinator
Autumn Jodzio, North Sector Manager
Lauren Doak, South Sector Manager

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